

Last week, I spoke to Dave Weigel from the [Washington Independent](#) about the applicability of the fabled Ayn Rand novel, *Atlas Shrugged*, and it has generated some considerable buzz among liberal and conservative blogs and activists alike.

If you are unfamiliar with the book, this is the synopsis the Washington Independent provided:

*Creative people (the “Atlases” of the title) are hounded and punished for their labor by an oppressive, socialistic state. In response, they retreat from society to a hidden enclave where they watch civilization’s slow collapse.*

I spent the last few weeks recovering from surgery, and I’ve had a lot of time to talk with business owners in my district, and to be perfectly blunt, I am hearing more and more of those owners thinking of “Going Galt” in response to President Obama’s spending spree. After all, someone is going to have to pay for this massive expansion of government.

This is troubling because small business supplies a substantial number of jobs in America, and now they are beginning to see that they are being force-fed a de facto punishment for their ambitions and success.

Don’t worry, I am not predicting a mass revolt by world economic leaders; we are a ways off from that. But what I am seeing, is a sort of protest, on the micro level from people that create jobs and those who create all the things the rest of us benefit from.

Let’s hope I am wrong, and let’s hope President Obama has a change of heart.